



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
Northwest Region
7600 Sand Point Way N.E., Bldg. 1
Seattle, WA 98115

Refer to:
OSB2000-0067

April 19, 2000

Mr. George Fekaris
Federal Highway Administration
Western Federal Lands Highway Division
610 East Fifth Street
Vancouver, Washington 98661-3893

Re: Biological Opinion for the Blaine Road Project (Oregon Forest Highway 155), Tillamook County, Oregon

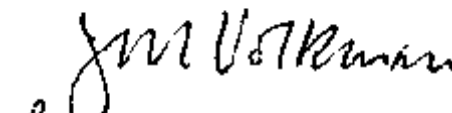
Dear Mr. Fekaris:

Enclosed is the National Marine Fisheries Service's (NMFS) biological opinion for the Blaine Road rehabilitation project in Tillamook County near Blaine, Oregon. The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) proposes to repair and restore a 4.1 mile segment of road beginning at milepost 6.7 and ending at milepost 10.8. This segment of Blaine Road runs parallel to the Nestucca River on land administered by the Siuslaw National Forest. FHWA is the lead Federal agency and proposes this project in cooperation with the Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, and Tillamook County. FHWA requested formal consultation, pursuant to section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA), in a letter dated January 10, 2000. NMFS received the request for consultation on January 12, 2000.

This biological opinion considers the potential effects of the proposed action on Oregon Coast coho salmon (*Oncorhynchus kisutch*) which occur in the proposed project area. Oregon Coast coho salmon were listed as threatened under the ESA on August 10, 1998 (63 FR 24998), and critical habitat was designated on February 16, 2000 (65 FR 7764). NMFS concludes that the proposed action is not likely to jeopardize the subject species, or destroy or adversely modify critical habitat. Included in the enclosed opinion is an incidental take statement with terms and conditions to minimize the take of the subject species.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Scott Carlon of my staff in the Oregon State Branch Office at (503) 231-2379.

Sincerely,


for William Stelle, Jr.
Regional Administrator

